

FORM E - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
E	218



wn Lexington

dress 782 Mass. Ave.

me John Beal House?

esent use Private residence

esent owner Florian S. Lydiard - JT
Wynne B. Stewart

scription:

le c1834

Source Reinhardt 1977: 32

le Federal / Greek Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Shingle

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features 5 bay wide, 1 deep, center
entrance, granite foundation, projecting
enclosed entrance porch.

Altered projecting ent. porch Date c.1920

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 100'

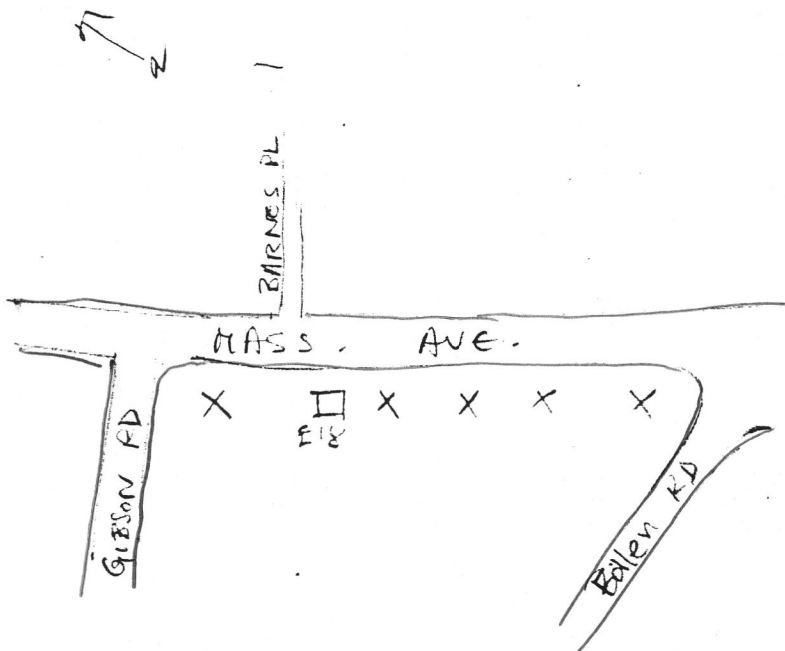
Approximate distance of building from street
10'-15'

6. Recorded by E. W. Reinhardt

Organization Lex. Hist. Com.

Date 7/75

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/	_____	Science/	_____
The Arts	_____	settlement	_____	invention	_____
Commerce	_____	Industry	_____	Social/	_____
Communication	_____	Military	_____	humanitarian	_____
Community development	_____	Political	_____	Transportation	_____

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Sidelights - Door elaborately paneled.

Door with fluted pilasters, Ionic capitols, dentil course of architrave, Greek key frieze & fine detail at cornice. Roof of porch projects, has metopes under. (Compare Brown-Butterfield & Stone bldg. . E) Ell on left (S.) side joins main block (compare Munroe Tavern. D-4) 3 windows deep; two story high. Flatter pitched roof extension to ell has bracketed hood over door. Garage attached to ell extension.

This house is identified by E.B. Worthen as "A. Augusta Smith;" also, "Windsor Smith" (no date).

Photo from Burr Church collection, Lexington Historical Society.

S. Lawrence Whipple, 1984

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
782 MASS. AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The door surround on this house appears to combine various details from the architectural pattern books of Asher Benjamin. The carpenter has used Benjamin's designs but simplified and combined them to fit his skills and his own sense of design. In addition to Roman Ionic pilasters, the door surround displays diamond-shaped decoration, a fret frieze and a decorative band alternating diamonds and circles (Reinhardt: 32-33). This is one of a number of Asher Benjamin-inspired doorways which survive in East Lexington (see also 627, 715, 870, 884, and 1106 Massachusetts Avenue).

The entrance portico is a c.1920 alteration; the original frontispiece survives virtually intact and was re-installed on the new, extended entrance at that time.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Elizabeth Reinhardt refers to this as the "John Beal House" (Reinhardt 1977: 32).

According to E.B. Worthen, this house (located next to the old Adams School) was occupied by Levi Smith, his sister Augusta ("Gusty"), and their two nephews, Windsor and Miner Smith (Worthen: 49). Levi Smith (1823-1906) was a farmer.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*.
Lexington Directories, various dates.

Piper, Fred Smith. "Architectural Yesterdays in Lexington," *Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society*, vol. IV, 1912, p. 117.

Reinhardt, Elizabeth and Anne A. Grady. "Asher Benjamin in East Lexington, Massachusetts", *Old-Time New England*, vol. LXVII, nos. 3-4, Winter-Spring 1977, pp. 31-33.

Worthen, Edwin B. *Tracing the Past in Lexington, Massachusetts*. New York: Vantage Press, 1998.

Supplement prepared by:
Lisa Mausolf
June 2009

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Lexington

Form No:

218

Property Name: 782 Massachusetts Ave.

Indicate each :



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
782 MASS. AVENUE

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Source: Fred Smith Piper, "Architectural Yesterdays in Lexington,"
Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, vol. IV, 1912, p. 122.